

**Amendments to the Abstract**

At page 12, please delete the Abstract of the Disclosure and substitute therefor:

--A method of manufacturing a battery includes ~~as an initial step~~ providing a cell for a battery having alternating positive and negative electrode plates, ~~wherein~~ each of the electrode plates is being separated by an electrically insulative separator layer. Each of the positive and negative electrode plates includes a projecting tab extending from an adjacent upper portion thereof, the projecting tabs of the positive plates being generally aligned, and the projecting tabs of the negative plates being generally aligned. ~~Next, the~~ The method comprises attaching a conductive connecting strap to the projecting tabs ~~of the positive and negative plates~~. The method ~~then~~ comprises applying a cap material onto the connecting positive strap and allowing the cap material to spread and drip to the exposed portions of the projecting tabs and the adjacent upper portions of the negative and positive plates and separator material. The cap material ~~is allowed to harden~~ hardens to provide a cap ~~attached to the projecting tabs and the adjacent upper portions of the positive plates and negative plates and separator material.~~--